

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS**

Student organizations have an important place in the educational program. When properly organized and operated, they:

1. Extend and reinforce the instructional program.
2. Give students practice in democratic self-government.
3. Build student morale and positive support for the school.
4. Honor outstanding student achievement.
5. Provide wholesome social and recreational activities.

School-sponsored organizations must be organized at the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of members. Organizational activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

**LIMITED OPEN FORUM**

District schools shall maintain a limited open forum during which students may hold meetings or activities not directly related to the school curriculum. The principal shall schedule this forum on non-instructional time so that it in no way interferes with regular school activities. The meetings shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.

The Board shall not deny access to any student-initiated group on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or any other content to be addressed at such meetings.

The Superintendent or designee shall insure that meetings held within the limited open forum are voluntary and student-initiated, with no direction, control, or regular attendance by non-school persons.

There shall be no sponsorship of limited open forum meetings by the school or staff. The term sponsorship means that school staff are promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes shall not constitute sponsorship of the meeting. Employees of the school shall be present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity.

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space. All student clubs or groups shall have equal access to the school media to announce meetings, including the public address system, the school newspaper, bulletin boards, and school web site. However, the principal or designee may issue a disclaimer that such activities are not school-sponsored

Authorization of use under the federal Equal Access Act does not indicate that the Board approves or advocates matters which are discussed at open forum meetings. Furthermore, religious groups granted access pursuant to the Equal Access Act are granted access only pursuant to that Act. Such access does not constitute district sanction of any particular religious belief.

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The superintendent shall prepare administrative regulations to implement a limited open forum at the

district's high schools.

**HAZING**

No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. Persons violating this policy shall be subject to district discipline, misdemeanor penalties, and forfeiture of entitlements.

Membership in secret fraternities, sororities, and clubs is prohibited.

**LEGAL REFERENCE****CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE**

40	Equal opportunity without regard to sex
41	School sponsored athletic programs; prohibited sex discrimination
200-252	Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
32050-32052	Hazing
33352	California Interscholastic Foundation; governing board has power to select athletic league representatives
33353.5	California Interscholastic Foundation; direct participation in student athletic insurance program; limitation of receipt of funds
33354	Powers of State Department of Education over Interscholastic athletics
35179	Powers and responsibilities of governing board over all aspects of interscholastic athletic programs, policies, and activities in its district; obligation to conform to law; associations; nondiscriminatory programs; definitions
48900	Hazing
48907	Student exercise of free expression
48930-48938	Student organizations
48950	Freedom of speech
49020	Athletic programs; Legislative intent
49021	Equal opportunity for male and female students
49022	Apportionment of funds for male and female students
49023	Expenditure of public funds; prohibited sex discrimination

**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE V**

5531	Supervision of extra-curricular activities of pupils
------	--

**PENAL CODE**

627-627.10	Access to school facilities
------------	-----------------------------

**TITLE VIII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT (FEDERAL)**

Hartzell v. Connell, 84 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1417 (April 20, 1984)

Perumal et al v. Saddleback Valley Unified School District, 99 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1426

Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens,  
58 U. S. Law Week 4720 (June 4, 1990)